

Remarks

In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, reconsideration and further examination are requested.

Initially, it is noted that the initialed copy of the form PTO-1449 originally filed on December 10, 2001 and returned with the Office Action of April 23, 2003 fails to include the Examiner's initials next to the reference listed under the "Other Document(s)" section (reference AO). Enclosed herewith is a copy of the partially initialed form PTO-1449 in question. In light of this apparent oversight, the Examiner is requested to initial next to the reference and return a completely initialed copy of the form PTO-1449.

Claims 54-63, 68, 69, 71-74, 78, 82-91, 96-99, 101, 105 and 106 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Cheng (US 6,019,670) in view of Berman (US 5,990,010).

Claims 1-3, 5-8, 64-67, 75, 92-95, 100 and 102-104 have been indicated as containing allowable subject matter. The Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for this indication of allowable subject matter.

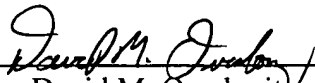
Claim 54 has been amended so as to include the features of claim 61 and allowable claim 64. Allowable claims 65 and 67 have been amended so as to include the features of claim 54 and 61. Claim 74 has been amended so as to include the features of allowable claim 75. Claim 82 has been amended so as to include the features of claim 89 and allowable claim 92. Allowable claims 93 and 95 have been amended so as to include the feature of claims 82 and 89. Claim 99 has been amended so as to include the features of allowable claim 100.

Claims 61-64, 68, 69, 71-73, 75, 78, 89-92, 96-98 and 100 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer to the subject matter contained therein. As a result, all of the remaining claims are now allowable.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that there are issues remaining which must be resolved before allowance of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

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FORM PTO 1449 (modified)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICELIST OF REFERENCES CITED BY APPLICANT(S)
(Use several sheets if necessary)

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July 30, 2001GROUP
3723

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

*EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
OPPE 5/2/01	AA	6,180,020	1/2001	Moriyama et al.			
DEC 10 2001	AB						
	AC						
	AD						
	AE						
	AF						
	AG						
	AH						
	AI						

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES NO	
	AJ							
	AK							
	AL							
	AM							
	AN							

OTHER DOCUMENT(S) (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

	AO	U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/560,562, filed April 28, 2000, (Kazuto HIROKAWA et al.).
	AP	
	AQ	

EXAMINER

Shawnee McDaniel

DATE CONSIDERED

4/20/03